

these problems, I cannot change a single, solitary decision I would make because you don't want me to make a bad decision for the long run because of a problem we've got in the short run.

So the time has come to stop playing politics with this. Let's do what our country has always done: Let the Government go on and perform its basic services, and let's get back to work. Every day we miss in these negotiations is a day we're putting off balancing the budget. Let's just go back to work, roll up our sleeves, balance a budget, but do it in a way that protects the fundamental interests of the American people. That's what I'm trying to do.

And I hope by coming here today—and I not only got a very good meal—[*Laughter*—and had a lot of conversations. Lots of days I just eat lunch alone at my desk. I had much more fun today than I normally do. [*Laughter*] But I hope we will send a message across this country that this is a good and worthy program. And if the House of Representatives votes to put it back into funding today, we will applaud them and give them a pat on the back. But we want to go all the way. We shouldn't have any of the essential functions of Government shut down.

You know, those young people ought to be able to get loans to start their businesses. Those folks ought to be able to get permission from the Government to sell our products to foreign countries. We're all buying things from other countries here every day. We ought to be selling our things overseas. And those young families that are having a chance because interest rates are low to move into homes for the first time, they ought to be able to do it. We should not leave this work undone.

So again I say thank you. If you need it, we're going to provide the money to keep the Meals on Wheels program going. And we will be there. But I think what we all want is for our country to stop—stop all this political squabbling in Washington, put all the partisanship aside, and get back to the work of balancing the budget in a way that protects our obligations to our parents and our children and to the future of this country.

We can do this. This is a very great country. This is hardly the biggest problem we ever faced. We can do it, and do it right if we'll do it in the kind of spirit that I have felt in this room today.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:34 p.m. in the Rectory Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Daniel Darko, pastor, St. Monica's Episcopal Church, and Mayor Marion Barry of Washington, DC. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 31

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Hilton Head, SC, where they attended the 1995 Renaissance Weekend.

January 1

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton returned to Washington, DC.

January 2

The President announced his intention to appoint Guy R. McMinds as the U.S. Commissioner of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission.

January 3

The President announced his intention to nominate Martin A. Kamarck to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

January 4

In the morning, the President traveled to Annapolis, MD, where he met with the family of Adm. Arleigh A. Burke before Admiral Burke's memorial service, and in the afternoon he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Shirley W. Ryan to the National Council on Disability.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jody L. Williams as a member of the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gerald N. Tirozzi to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Elementary and Secondary Education.

January 5

In the afternoon, the President met with congressional leaders to discuss the budget negotiations.

The President named John L. Hilley as Assistant to the President and Director of Legislative Affairs.

The President declared a major disaster in the State of South Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm October 22–24, 1995.

The President declared a major disaster in the State of Minnesota and ordered Federal aid to supplement local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe ice storm October 23–24, 1995.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted January 4

Stuart E. Eizenstat, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, vice Jeffrey E. Garten, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 29¹

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Released December 31

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Released January 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Released January 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Released January 4

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing that Assistant to the President and Director of Legislative Affairs Patrick J. Griffin has informed the President of his intent to resign

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the budget impasse

Released January 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the resignation of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama of Japan

¹ This release was not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.